World War II Rumor Project Collection

AFC 1945/001

Guides to the Collections in the Archive of Folk Culture



American Folklife Center, Library of Congress Washington, D.C. 1996

Contact information: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact

Additional search options available at: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af010004

LC Online Catalog record: http://lccn.loc.gov/2004695194

Prepared by Stephanie A. Hall with the assistance of Linda Sudmalis Revised and edited by Nora Yeh

Collection Summary

Collection Number: AFC 1945/001

Title: World War II Rumor Project Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1942-1943

Location: Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. http://hdl.loc.gov/

loc.afc/folklife.home

Extent (original): 10 boxes (5 linear feet)

Creator: United States. Office of War Information

Language: English

Summary: Manuscript collection created by the Office of War Information in 1942-1943. Field representatives of various federal agencies in 42 states enlisted individuals who collected rumors generated in the United States during World War II. These individuals or "correspondents" included dentists, beauty shop operators, policemen, proprietors, and librarians who had access to rumors in their communities. Reports were submitted to Dr. Eugene Horowitz at the Bureau of Public Inquiries of OWI, who organized the materials. Rumors, jokes, rhymes, and anecdotes about the war were also collected by teachers from African American and white high school and college students; a few drawings and cartoons are included with the submissions from students.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject listed alphabetically therein.

People

Horowitz, Eugene.

Organizations

United States. Office of War Information, collector.

Subjects

College students--United States--Attitudes.

High school students--United States--Attitudes.

Rumor--United States.

Urban folklore--United States.

World War, 1939-1945--African Americans.

World War, 1939-1945--Anecdotes.

World War, 1939-1945--German Americans.

World War, 1939-1945--Humor.

World War, 1939-1945--Japanese Americans.

World War, 1939-1945--Jews.

World War, 1939-1945--Propaganda.

World War, 1939-1945--Psychological aspects.

World War, 1939-1945--Public opinion.

Form/Genre

Correspondence.

Drawings.

Manuscripts.

Poems.

Scope and Content

The World War II Rumor Project Collection contains manuscript materials compiled by the Office of War Information (OWI). The OWI was established by an Executive order on June 13, 1942, for the purpose of achieving a coordinated governmental war information program. The information program was designed to promote an informed and intelligent

understanding of the status and progress of the war effort, war policies, activities, and aims of the United States government. All functions of the Office of Facts and Figures and of the Office of Government Reports, and parts of the functions and related records of two other agencies were transferred to the OWI.

For the World War II Rumor Project, field representatives collected information from community-based correspondents and sent duplicate or triplicate copies of reports of the correspondents to Dr. Eugene Horowitz at the Bureau of Public Inquiries of the OWI. The reports listed rumors and anecdotes that were compiled by Dr. Horowitz and William H. Webber arranged in alphabetical order by states and by subjects.

This collection has two distinct components. The first component involved field representatives of various federal agencies in the United States instructed to enlist individuals in their communities who were willing to write down rumors and send them to the field representatives. These individuals or "correspondents" included dentists, beauty shop operators, policemen, proprietors, and librarians who had access to rumors in their communities.

The second component involved rumors, jokes, rhymes, and anecdotes about the war from high school and college students collected by teachers. Subjects include Adolph Hitler, the Japanese, rationing, and other topics. Includes rhymes and stories composed or recorded by students. Correspondence within the folders indicates that some teachers removed some rumors or jokes in order to "show the best of their pupils." Within the documents, race designations vary. For one school, correspondence indicates that students were not asked to identify their race due to local tensions. However, the papers were taken up in order, and the teacher later added a designation as to the race of the student. The designations for African-American students appear as "Negro," "N," "Colored," "Col," or "C." Designations for white students appear as "White" or "W."

Drawings by high school students and a few World War II cartoons appear in the following folders:

- FOLDER 114
- FOLDER 118
- FOLDER 122
- FOLDER 123
- FOLDER 127

Arrangement of the Records

This collection is arranged in five series:

- Series I: Administrative Information on World War II Rumor Project
- Series II: Administrative Information on Local Rumor-control Projects and Correspondence
- Series III: Rumor Reports Gathered by Correspondents
- Series IV: Rumors from Correspondents and Field Representatives
- Series V: Rumors, Jokes, and Anecdotes from High School and College Students

Access

Collection is open for research; no restrictions on access.

Preferred Citation

World War II Rumor Project Collection (AFC 1945/001), Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Description of Series

Container Series

Series I: Administrative Information on World War II Rumor Project

Series II: Administrative Information on Local Rumor-control Projects and

Correspondence

Series III: Rumor Reports Gathered by Correspondents

Series IV: Rumors from Correspondents and Field Representatives

Series V: Rumors, Jokes, and Anecdotes from High School and College Students

Container List

Container	Contents
	Series I: Administrative Information on World War II Rumor Project
BOX 1 FOLDER 1	Rumor Control Project Documents - various editions
BOX 1 FOLDER 2	Administrative Information and Correspondence, January-March, 1942
BOX 1 FOLDER 3	Administrative Information and Correspondence, April-June, 1942
BOX 1 FOLDER 4	Administrative Information and Correspondence, July-August, 1942
BOX 1 FOLDER 5	Administrative Information and Correspondence, September-December, 1942
BOX 1 FOLDER 6	Diagrams of Rumor and Rumor Control
BOX 1 FOLDER 7	Graphics and Articles
BOX 1 FOLDER 8	Radio Broadcast "War Information and Military Security"
	Series II: Administrative Information on Local Rumor-control Projects and Correspondence
BOX 2 FOLDER 9	Memoranda on Rumors and Rumor Control Groups: Various Drafts
BOX 2 FOLDER 10	Memoranda on Rumors and Rumor Control Groups: Various Drafts
BOX 2 FOLDER 11	Memoranda on Rumors and Rumor Control Groups: Dr. Horowitz's File
BOX 2 FOLDER 12	Correspondents and Rumor Analysis
BOX 2 FOLDER 13	Rumor Analysis on Several Topics, including compilations of rumors received
BOX 2 FOLDER 14	Local Rumor Control Projects: Rumor Collectors
BOX 2 FOLDER 15	Local Rumor Control Projects: Correspondence and Internal Documents
BOX 2 FOLDER 16	Local Rumor Control Projects: Introduction Letter and Questionnaire
	Series III: Rumor Reports Gathered by Correspondents
BOX 2 FOLDER 17	Local Rumor Control Projects: Alabama
BOX 2 FOLDER 18	Local Rumor Control Projects: Arizona

Series III: Rumor Reports Gathered by Correspondents

Container	Contents
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Arkansas
FOLDER 19	
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: California
FOLDER 20	
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Colorado
FOLDER 21 BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Connecticut
FOLDER 22	Local Rumoi Comitol Projects. Connecticut
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Florida
FOLDER 23	200m 110mor 200m 01 1 10110m
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Georgia
FOLDER 24	
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Idaho
FOLDER 25	
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Illinois
FOLDER 26	Local Dumon Control Projects Indiana
BOX 2 FOLDER 27	Local Rumor Control Projects: Indiana
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Iowa
FOLDER 28	
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Kansas
FOLDER 29	
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Kentucky
FOLDER 30	
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Louisiana
FOLDER 31	
BOX 2 FOLDER 32	Local Rumor Control Projects: Maine
BOX 2	Local Rumor Control Projects: Massachusetts
FOLDER 33	Local Rumor Control Projects. Massachusetts
вох 3	Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety: Documents and Correspondence
FOLDER 34	
BOX 3	Local Rumor Control Projects: Michigan
FOLDER 35	
BOX 3	Local Rumor Control Projects: Minnesota
FOLDER 36	
BOX 3 FOLDER 37	Local Rumor Control Projects: Missouri
BOX 3	Local Rumor Control Projects: Montana
FOLDER 38	Local Rumor Control Projects. Montaina
вох 3	Local Rumor Control Projects: Nebraska
FOLDER 39	•
вох 3	Local Rumor Control Projects: New Jersey
FOLDER 40	
BOX 3	Local Rumor Control Projects: New Mexico
FOLDER 41	
BOX 3 FOLDER 42	Local Rumor Control Projects: New York
FOLDER 42 BOX 3	Local Rumor Control Projects: North Carolina
FOLDER 43	Local Rumor Control Projects. North Caronna
J	

Series III: Rumor Reports Gathered by Correspondents

Container	Contents
BOX 3 FOLDER 44	Local Rumor Control Projects: North Dakota
BOX 3 FOLDER 45	Local Rumor Control Projects: Ohio
BOX 3 FOLDER 46	Local Rumor Control Projects: Oklahoma
BOX 3 FOLDER 47	Local Rumor Control Projects: Oregon
BOX 3 FOLDER 48	Local Rumor Control Projects: Pennsylvania
BOX 3 FOLDER 49	Local Rumor Control Projects: Rhode Island
BOX 3 FOLDER 50	Local Rumor Control Projects: South Carolina
BOX 3 FOLDER 51	Local Rumor Control Projects: Tennessee
BOX 3 FOLDER 52	Local Rumor Control Projects: Texas
BOX 3 FOLDER 53	Local Rumor Control Projects: Utah
BOX 3 FOLDER 54	Local Rumor Control Projects: Virginia
BOX 3 FOLDER 55	Local Rumor Control Projects: Washington (State)
BOX 3 FOLDER 56	Local Rumor Control Projects: Washington D. C.
BOX 3 FOLDER 57	Local Rumor Control Projects: West Virginia
BOX 3 FOLDER 58	Local Rumor Control Projects: Wisconsin
BOX 3 FOLDER 59	Local Rumor Control Projects: Wyoming
	Series IV: Rumors from Correspondents and Field Representatives
BOX 4 FOLDER 60	Anti-British
BOX 4 FOLDER 61	Armed Forces: Health
BOX 4 FOLDER 62	Army-Navy Commissions
BOX 4 FOLDER 63	Army-Navy Training
BOX 4 FOLDER 64	Civilian Defense
BOX 4 FOLDER 65	Civilian Front: Criticism of Government
BOX 4 FOLDER 66	Civilian Front: Security and Treatment of Enemy Aliens
BOX 4	Criticism of U.S. Government

Series IV: Rumors from Correspondents and Field Representatives

Container	Contents
FOLDER 67	
BOX 4	Defense Workers
FOLDER 68	
BOX 4	Defense Workers: Pay
FOLDER 69	
BOX 4 FOLDER 70	Discards as non-rumor
BOX 4	Economic Front: War Bonds and Stamps
FOLDER 71	Leonomic Front. War Bonds and Stamps
BOX 4	Farmers
FOLDER 72	
BOX 4	Government Information: Policy and Practice
FOLDER 73	
BOX 4	Inflation
FOLDER 74	
BOX 4 FOLDER 75	Labor Relations and Union Activities
BOX 5	Military: High commands
FOLDER 76	Wintary. Trigit Commands
BOX 5	Military: Movement of troops
FOLDER 77	·
BOX 5	Military: Woman Auxiliaries
FOLDER 78	
BOX 5	Military Losses: Human Combatants
FOLDER 79	Military I access Delagrams
BOX 5 FOLDER 80	Military Losses: Prisoners
BOX 5	Military Losses: Warships
FOLDER 81	Minute 2000co. Watships
BOX 5	Military Officers
FOLDER 82	
BOX 5	Military Organization: General
FOLDER 83	
BOX 5	Military Recruitment (Military Selective Service)
FOLDER 84 BOX 5	Military Strategy: American Front
FOLDER 85	Wintary Strategy. American Pront
BOX 5	Military Strategy: Far East Front
FOLDER 86	
BOX 5	Military Strategy: Russian Front
FOLDER 87	
BOX 5	Military Strategy: Second Front
FOLDER 88	Military Channel
BOX 5 FOLDER 89	Military Strength
BOX 5	Military Strength of the United States: Perceptions
FOLDER 90	minut stronger of the office states. I electrons
BOX 5	Military Tactics
FOLDER 91	•
BOX 6	Miscellaneous (Permalife copies)

Series IV: Rumors from Correspondents and Field Representatives

Container	Contents
FOLDER 92	
BOX 6 FOLDER 93	Miscellaneous (Original copies)
BOX 6 FOLDER 94	Morals
BOX 6 FOLDER 95	Operations, Actual and Potential: In United States and along United States Coast
BOX 6 FOLDER 96	Operations: Aleutians
BOX 6 FOLDER 97	Operations: Russian Front
BOX 6 FOLDER 98	Post World-War
BOX 6 FOLDER 99	Predictions of Duration
BOX 6 FOLDER 100	Rationing: Miscellaneous (Permalife copies)
BOX 6 FOLDER 101	Rationing: Miscellaneous (Original copies)
BOX 7 FOLDER 102	Rationing: Rubber and tire rationing
BOX 7 FOLDER 103	Rationing: Sugar
BOX 7 FOLDER 104	Russia's Arms and War Effort (1) Favorable and neutral and (2) Unfavorable
BOX 7 FOLDER 105	Social problems: General
BOX 7 FOLDER 106	Social problems: Poverty and Unemployment
BOX 7 FOLDER 107	Social Problems: Race discrimination
BOX 7 FOLDER 108	Social Problems: Race discrimination, other: Japanese, German
BOX 7 FOLDER 109	Strategy: General War arms: General and Miscellaneous
BOX 7 FOLDER 110 BOX 7	War causes
FOLDER 111 BOX 7	War Production Management
FOLDER 112	war i roduction wanagement
	Series V: Rumors, Jokes, and Anecdotes from High School and College Students
BOX 8 FOLDER 113	Instruction sheet for High School and College Instructors
BOX 8 FOLDER 114	Alabama. Parker High School, Birmingham
BOX 8 FOLDER 115	Alabama. Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee. (Permalife copies)

Series V: Rumors, Jokes, and Anecdotes from High School and College Students

Container	Contents
BOX 8	Alabama. Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee. (Original copies)
FOLDER 116	
BOX 8	Illinois. Du Sable High School, Chicago
FOLDER 117	
BOX 8	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
FOLDER 118	
BOX 8	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
FOLDER 119	
BOX 8	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
FOLDER 120	
BOX 8 FOLDER 121	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
BOX 8	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
FOLDER 122	minois. Englewood riigh School, Chicago
BOX 8	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
FOLDER 123	inmoist 211810 thood 111811 outlood, chiengo
вох 9	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
FOLDER 124	
BOX 9	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
FOLDER 125	
BOX 9	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
FOLDER 126	
BOX 9	Illinois. Englewood High School, Chicago
FOLDER 127	New Contract West Service Will Calcul Dell'st
BOX 9 FOLDER 128	North Carolina. Washington High School, Raleigh
BOX 9	Ohio. East High School, Columbus
FOLDER 129	Olio. Last High School, Columbus
вох 9	Ohio. East High School, Columbus
FOLDER 130	
BOX 9	Ohio. Dennison College, Granville
FOLDER 131	
BOX 9	Ohio. Wilberforce University, Wilberforce (Permalife copies)
FOLDER 132	
BOX 10	Ohio. Wilberforce University, Wilberforce (Original copies)
FOLDER 133	William DOM IIII''
BOX 10 FOLDER 134	Washington, D.C. Howard University
BOX 10	West Virginia. Bluefield State Teachers College, Bluefield
FOLDER 135	west virginia. Bluefield State Teachers Conege, Bluefield
BOX 10	West Virginia. West Virginia State College, Institute
FOLDER 136	
BOX 10	Unknown High School
FOLDER 137	
BOX 10	Unknown High School
FOLDER 138	
BOX 10	Unknown High School
FOLDER 139	
BOX 10	Unknown School
FOLDER 140	

Series V: Rumors, Jokes, and Anecdotes from High School and College Students

Container	Contents
BOX 10	Unknown School